

## SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

Japan Knows That the Sword Must Decide Between Her and Russia.

## THE PLANS OF THE POWERS REVEALED

By the Premature Action of Germany in Seizing Kia-Chiao-Russia Limiting Japan's Ambition—Work for the Diet—Other Matters.

TOKYO, JAPAN, December 24, 1897.—Per S. S. Peru, via San Francisco.—Special.—Has the war-cloud passed away, and is the threatening storm over? Who ever thinks so, must be a very superficial observer, and knows very little of the Japanese character. I was talking quite recently with a Japanese official of the State Department, and asked his opinion as to the chances of war.

"I think," he said, "that everything is now smoothed over."

"But," will Japan submit to Russia's supremacy in Korea?"

"Japan will see that Korea's independence is maintained."

"What will Japan do if the French should move Formosa?"

"The French seem to want Hainan; there has been no question of Formosa."

"But," I insisted, "suppose that after all they do want Formosa?"

"The hypothesis was too much. As a rule the Japanese features are absolutely without expression, but a flash of the eye and a look of determination appeared, as he replied:

"Formosa is Japanese territory and no nation on earth shall take it from us."

Is there any possibility of the attempt being made? Those who have followed the events in the Far East ever since Russia has secured peace on her western frontier, cannot doubt that Japan will be harassed until "bearance" not a prominent quality in Japanese national life, is exhausted. The action of Germany in seizing Kia-Chiao, was premature, it revealed the plans of the powers. But, after all, Germany aided or abetted Russia in limiting Japan's ambition, Russia was liberally rewarded by China, or rather, helped herself to such reward as in her opinion the service called for. France did not come to China's rescue from purely philanthropic motives; but Germany was left out in the cold. The Emperor may have been of the opinion that a simple "thank you" would again be the reward for his assistance in the coming struggle, and has taken time by the forelock by exacting payment in advance. However this may be, Russia, France, Germany, and Great Britain are hurrying their fleets to these waters, and Japan is buying war vessels faster than they can be built. If England's attitude were strictly defined, it would be possible to make a good guess as to when the ball will open; but Great Britain's position is an unknown quantity. The Japanese are in hopes of forming an offensive-defensive alliance, and the Japanese press, which only three years ago could not find any epithets vile enough to express its contempt, has now completely turned round and indulges in equally futile flattery. Japan knows that the sword must decide between her and Russia, but she would like to wait until she has her fleet complete. But by that time the Trans-Siberian railroad will be finished, and this will offset fully her advantage on the ocean. No, I look for a sudden attack, and shall not be surprised if a cable flashes around the world stating that a shot has set fire to the powder magazine.

## WORK FOR THE DIET.

The approaching meeting of the Diet is occupying the attention of the politicians and of the public press in so far as the last touches must be given to the preliminary measures necessary to render the new treaty operative. These treaties provide that the Codes must have been in operation for one year, and notice given to the powers, before the abolition of extra-territoriality can go into effect. The codes, however, are not finished, and as they must pass the Diet before they come a law, it must be accomplished at this session or there may be a postponement. The government would not mind, but the financiers would be furious. The British Blue Book for 1894 proves that the Diet Cabinet was not anxious for the abolition of the extra-territorial clause. Japan is not ripe to have jurisdiction over foreigners. This fact is brought home to us every day. "What was the punishment to the murderers of our two sailors? A paltry fine. Well, the United States, in the opinion of Japan and even of poor old, decrepit China, is a quantity negligible. Our Monroe doctrine is understood to mean that we cannot interfere in the Far East, and that our missionaries, soldiers, and peaceable merchants can be ill-treated and even murdered with impunity. The United States Minister addresses a diplomatic remonstrance; it is answered in the same formal manner, and in the course of the remonstrance the men who, trusting to the Stars and Stripes, went out there moulder in their bloody graves, while President and Congress are considering the far more important question as to who shall receive the political plums, the diplomatic and consular places in China and Japan.

If our citizens in the Far East—but they are not reputable merchants, and do not dabble in politics—would write a fair account of what the Chinese and Japanese think of us, and if the newspapers and the printed estimate, it would go hard with the politicians at home who are responsible for it.

How long will the Diet be in session? From present appearances I should think just long enough to be told: Get out of here! In other words, there will be an immediate dissolution, unless important events occur. The opposition, that is the whole Diet, except the members who hold government positions, has publicly expressed the intention of addressing the throne, or to pass a resolution of want of confidence in the Cabinet. The ministers are perfectly aware of the fact, and the wonder to me is that the Cabinet has shown so much vitality. Who to the minister or Cabinet who should neglect to keep up army and navy. Hara-kiri would be a very slight punishment if it were of war, defeat instead of victory should result. But where is the money to come from? Japan's finances are in a bad condition, and the deficit is growing. To add to these perplexities, there is the war spirit, the Yamato Damashii, with which the ministers seem to sympathize, but which is found highly inconvenient at this time. I dare say that there is not a member of the Cabinet, who would not gladly resign, and give somebody else a chance at the thankless task.

## PECULIAR POLITICS.

There are some peculiarities in Japanese politics which strike us as being rather odd. The Nippon tells the following story, which, impossible as it reads, may contain a good deal of truth. Some self-appointed advisers of Baron Iwasaki, the great financier, Ochi-Matsu, and several other busy bodies, proceeded to the residence of Count Matsukata, the Premier, and told him that popular opinion being now irretrievably unfavorable to him, and the attitude of foreign powers towards the East being such as to cause much uneasiness, nothing could be more unfortunate for his own reputation as well as for the national interests than to provoke a fruitless conflict with political parties.

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E. B. Samuels, County Clerk of Hickman County, Ky., testified that he suffered for years with horrible pains in the back, kidneys and bladder, was treated by many physicians—they could not cure him, until he got to the TURNERS, who cured him. He gladly recommends them to all sufferers.

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There is another matter which I would place before the public through your paper. The legations of almost all the treaty powers have beautiful buildings, owned by the governments by which they are accredited. The one of the United States is an exception. See here what a prominent paper says of it: "As for the Legation of the United States, the landings of the Washington Government to provide for a suitable building is becoming the subject of public comment. The site is spacious and admirably situated, but the house is a wooden structure of the most inferior description. Hastily run up and roughly put together at the outset, the passage of years has deprived it of its only title to respectability, newness, and it is now a veritable eyesore, as ugly as it must be uncomfortable. It can never have been intended to be anything but a very temporary structure, for it is huddled away in the southern corner of the grounds so that the principal rooms face west and north, aspects almost unendurable for a residence in the climate of Japan."

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A good deal of discussion arose over the fact that the nationality of a defendant under certain hypothetical cases, but he rounded out clearly his conclusion that whether or not the prisoner had been for years past, leading to conclusions between them, all tending to show his mental unsoundness.

There are some peculiarities in Japanese politics which strike us as being rather odd. The Nippon tells the following story, which, impossible as it reads, may contain a good deal of truth. Some self-appointed advisers of Baron Iwasaki, the great financier, Ochi-Matsu, and several other busy bodies, proceeded to the residence of Count Matsukata, the Premier, and told him that popular opinion being now irretrievably unfavorable to him, and the attitude of foreign powers towards the East being such as to cause much uneasiness, nothing could be more unfortunate for his own reputation as well as for the national interests than to provoke a fruitless conflict with political parties.

Here is the peace politeness with a vengeance. Fancy our Mr. J. P. Morgan, accompanied by Senator Hill, proceeding unasked for advice of this kind! The self-appointed committee then modestly requested the Premier to resign. And what did the head of the Cabinet do? Ring the bell and tell the servant to show his visitors out? The Nippon reports the Premier as having betrayed symptoms

of great regret, and as having indicated his sense of the mistakes committed by Count Kabayama and Viscount Takashima, to which he attributed the present embarrassing state of affairs. Here is a specimen of Japanese politeness for you! But there is one thing highly commendable in all this. Japanese statesmen may dabble in politics, but if they make a mistake such as would reflect upon, or hurt Dai Nippon, there can be only one end, and that this, hara-kiri. If this or some similar unwritten law became the rule of the Japanese statesmen, and if some politicians, I fancy, would go out of the business, and try some other way of making a living.

This is the last week of the year, and more so than in other years, so old residents say. Money is tighter than it ever was before, and there is scarcely any prospect of relief. The papers are discussing the advisability of inducing foreign capital to make investments, but Japan must change her attitude towards foreigners completely, and infuse a little more integrity into her merchants before any foreigner will trust his capital.

There is another matter which I would place before the public through your paper. The legations of almost all the treaty powers have beautiful buildings, owned by the governments by which they are accredited. The one of the United States is an exception. See here what a prominent paper says of it: "As for the Legation of the United States, the landings of the Washington Government to provide for a suitable building is becoming the subject of public comment. The site is spacious and admirably situated, but the house is a wooden structure of the most inferior description. Hastily run up and roughly put together at the outset, the passage of years has deprived it of its only title to respectability, newness, and it is now a veritable eyesore, as ugly as it must be uncomfortable. It can never have been intended to be anything but a very temporary structure, for it is huddled away in the southern corner of the grounds so that the principal rooms face west and north, aspects almost unendurable for a residence in the climate of Japan."

A 4 x 4 War Hunt say that could induce a large attendance at the regatta, and of the Deep Run Hunt Club. This number was, perhaps, the largest of the season, and the race was a most exciting and exhilarating one.

It was conceded to be the best hunt of the season. The hunt was at Rio Vista, the throw of was to the right of the road, this side of Grants. The course was through Grants, Ashburner's, Lehigh, and over to the Deep Run road, thence to the club-house, at which point the hunt was over. The jump was made by the Deep Run road, thence to the club-house, at which point the hunt was over.

It was indeed a quick time, and the progress of the hunt three riders were mounted, but no one was hurt.

Mr. H. C. Beattie, M. P. H., on Miss Christian's "Lady Lillian," rode, as he always does, true and straight, and was hard to follow. Following him like a shadow was Miss Mary Forbes of Warrenton, Va., who, on Major Allen's "Punch," rode superbly. Prominent in the front of the hunt was Mr. Higginbotham in his gray mare "Duchess," and Mr. Muscoe, Garrett, on Mr. O. H. Berry's "Duchess." This was only "Duchess's" second hunt, and he acquitted himself handsomely. Master Everett Vaidy, on his gray colt, took his jumps in great style, and could give some of the old "uns a lesson. Dr. Tritton and Mr. Savage, on "Gray," were also in the hunt, and a sort of an automaton, and hates to take an initiative, probably from fear of being rapped over the knuckles by his super